(d) if so, the decision of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Pendency of cases in courts is due to various factors. These, *inter alia*, include inadequate judge strength, non-filling up of existing vacancies of the posts of Judges and Judicial Officers, inadequate use of Information Technology in courts, increased institution of cases, etc. Expenditure on High Courts and Subordinate Courts is borne by the State Governments.

The Hon'ble Chief Justice of India in his Law Day Address on 26th November, 2001 stated "the reason why we do not have more judges across the board is because the States are simply not willing to provide the finances that are required.... Each and every State in the country has stated in reply that it has no more money for the judiciary."

(b) At present there is 0.647 judge of High Court per million population in the country.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Judge strength in Supreme Court is as per the Constitution of India. The judge strength in the High Courts is reviewed once in three years on the basis of figures of institution and disposal of cases by each High Court. As regards District and Subordinate Courts, the primary responsibility for taking necessary action for increasing the Judge strength as well as filling up of the existing vacancies vests with the State Governments. State Governments have been periodically requested to fill up vacant posts in the District and Subordinate Courts.

Clearance of Rofecoxib Gel

*485. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI MUNNAVAR HASAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rofecoxib Gel was cleared by DCGI without even checking the trial reports;

(b) whether it is also a fact that multicentric trials at eight centres were completed just in two weeks' time;

(c) whether none of the trial reports mentions date of start and completion of trial;

(d) whether Dy. DCGI has ignored established norms in granting permission for Rofecoxib Gel;

(e) whether the Company has given undue favours to the authorities concerned; and

(f) whether his Ministry propose to hand over the case to CBI for investigation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (f) Rofecoxib, which is an NSAID (Non Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug), was first internationally marketed in May 1999 by M/s MERCK, USA in oral dosage form. Subsequently, this drug was also approved in India in June, 2000. NSAIDs are also commonly used for local application for musculoskeletal pain relief. M/s Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd., had applied on 22nd March 2001 for permission to conduct clinical trial and market Rofecoxib in Gel form for local application. The New Drug cell in the office of DCG(I) had checked the pre-clinical and clinical trial data submitted by the firm and the product was approved on 18th October 2001. As per the protocol of proposed clinical trial, the duration of the study was for 10 days. The firm was permitted to conduct the trial on 30th July 2001. The trial report was submitted by the firm on 20th August 2001. The dates of initiation and completion of trials are maintained by the investigators in the concerned medical institutions. The trials were conducted in 8 renowned hospitals in the country and the reports bears signatures and stamp of each investigator. Therefore, the norms prescribed under Drugs & Cosmetics Rules for pre-clinical and clinical studies were duly followed while evaluating the drug for approval. Since the prescribed norms were followed in the matter, there is no proposal to get the matter investigated by CBI.

Renting of Government quarters in Kali Bari

*487. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of Government quarters at J-Block, Mandir Marg (Kali Bari) New Delhi, particularly Block 17, are rented out for the past few years;

(b) whether Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard to locate such quarters;